



# NEWS RELEASE

*Office of the  
United States Attorney  
for the  
District of Nebraska*  
**Joe W. Stecher**

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December 10, 2008

United States Attorney Joe Stecher and the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, announce the following information for the attention of the media:

**Event Triggering this Release:**

Thomas Gellatly, 62, was sentenced for receiving child pornography. The Honorable Joseph F. Bataillon sentenced Gellatly to the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons for a term of sixty months. After his release from prison, Gellatly will begin a five year term of supervised release.

Agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) began their investigation of Gellatly after receiving a lead from the German National Police. The German Police identified 106 AOL members in the United States who had received child pornography. Local ICE agents conducted a background check of Gellatly. They found that he was employed as a teacher at Omaha Public Schools assigned to McMillan Middle School. He was interviewed at his home on February 12, 2008. He admitted to downloading child pornography. He confirmed using an AOL account that German authorities identified as receiving child pornography.

A forensic review of Gellatly's computer revealed images of child pornography on the desktop. Approximately 6 videos and 1,600 images of suspected child pornography were found on the hard drive.

**Name of Defendant:** Thomas Gellatly

**AKA:**

**Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty** (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Receipt of Child Pornography – Not less than 5-20 years of imprisonment, \$250,000 fine, or both imprisonment and fine, not less than 5 years supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment.

**Specific Location of Alleged Crime:** Omaha, Nebraska

**Location of Arrest:** Omaha, Nebraska

**Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug:**

**Others Charged in Same Scheme:**

**Relevant Dates:**

**Date of Alleged Crime:** On and before February 12, 2008

**Federal Arrest Date:** February 15, 2008

**Date Complaint Issued:** February 14, 2008

**Indictment Returned Date:** February 21, 2008

**Initial Appearance Date:** February 15, 2008 on the Complaint; February 26, 2008 on the Indictment

**Plea or Trial and Date(s):** Pled on August 21, 2008 to the Indictment

**Sentencing Date:** December 10, 2008

**Next Court Hearing Type and Date:** N/A

**Assigned Magistrate Judge:** The Honorable Thomas D. Thalken

**Held without Bond, or Released from Custody:** Released on a personal recognizance bond with supervision

**In Continuous Custody Since:**

**Assigned District Court Judge:** The Honorable Joseph F. Bataillon

**Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release:** MPN